



Africans in the Americas: Celebrating the Ancestral Heritage

This year's theme for the African Burial Ground, *Africans in the Americas: Celebrating the Ancestral Heritage*, commemorates the contributions of the ancestors who were reinterred last October at the Burial Ground, as well as the more than 20,000 other enslaved Africans interred there. Commemorative activities will serve to reaffirm that the African Burial Ground is not only a local and national landmark but also an international historic site.

For information on *Africans in the Americas*, visit www.schomburgcenter.org or call the African Burial Ground information line at (212) 491-2040.

EVENT SCHEDULE

All events except where noted will be held at the African Burial Ground site (adjacent to 290 Broadway at Duane Street)

October

1 Friday • 11 a.m.

Youth Ring Shout Ceremony & Cultural Tribute

Schoolchildren encircle the African Burial Ground in a ring shout ceremony to commemorate the ancestors. Immediately following the Boys and Girls Choirs of Harlem and Autum will participate in a program for children on the legacy of the African Burial Ground Memorial Site.



1 Friday • 1 p.m.

South Africa Freedom Park Reconciliation Ceremony

The South Africa Freedom Park has created the reconciliation ceremony to cleanse and heal the ill-doing of the past, and to acknowledge the pain and suffering that has been endured by South Africans and all Africans. The Freedom Park Reconciliation ceremonies held in Africa were part of the preparation for the development of the Garden of Remembrance, which will incorporate the soil from the graves of heroes and heroines of the liberation struggle. Freedom Park is slated to be a world-class heritage site incorporating a national monument, state-of-the-art interactive museum, and memorial garden. The Patron-in-Chief of the Freedom Park Trust is former president Nelson Mandela.



Photographs by E. Lee White and Manu Sassoonian

1 Friday • 2 p.m.

Vigil

Join drummers and community groups as they keep watch over the African Burial Ground at an all-night vigil at the memorial site.

2 Saturday • 11 a.m.

Cultural Celebration

Performers from Africa, the Caribbean, and the United States honor the ancestors with spiritual and performing arts tributes. Featuring Hugh Masekela, Cicely Tyson, Avery Brooks, The Boys and Girls Choirs of Harlem, Bobbi Humphrey, and Brooklyn's Musart Steel Drum Band.



3 Sunday • All day

Day of Remembrance & Meditation

Congregations and churches throughout the city are encouraged to remember the ancestors during their services.

3 Sunday • 4 p.m.

Vanqui: A Tribute Concert

In this tribute to the triumph of the human spirit, composer Leslie Savoy Burrs and author John A. Williams bring new sounds and text to a uniquely American experience. Vanqui tells the story of Vanqui and Prince, married Africans enslaved in America in the nineteenth century

who are forcibly separated and cruelly murdered. Resurrected as spirits, Vanqui and Prince encounter freedom fighters like Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglass, and John Brown as they search for each other and for the Baobab tree. Featuring internationally renowned American artists from the opera, classical, and jazz worlds, including soprano Carmen Balthrop, who has performed at the Metropolitan Opera, and with the San Francisco, Houston, and Santa Fe opera companies; Dr. Kay George Roberts, international conductor; and Diane Monroe, classical and jazz violin soloist.

Tickets: \$20. For ticket information call (212) 491-2206.

Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture

Through October 8

The Memorial Design Finalists Exhibition

For more information on the exhibition, visit www.africanburialground.com. 290 Broadway